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NOVEMBER, 1989.

# Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat Incorporated

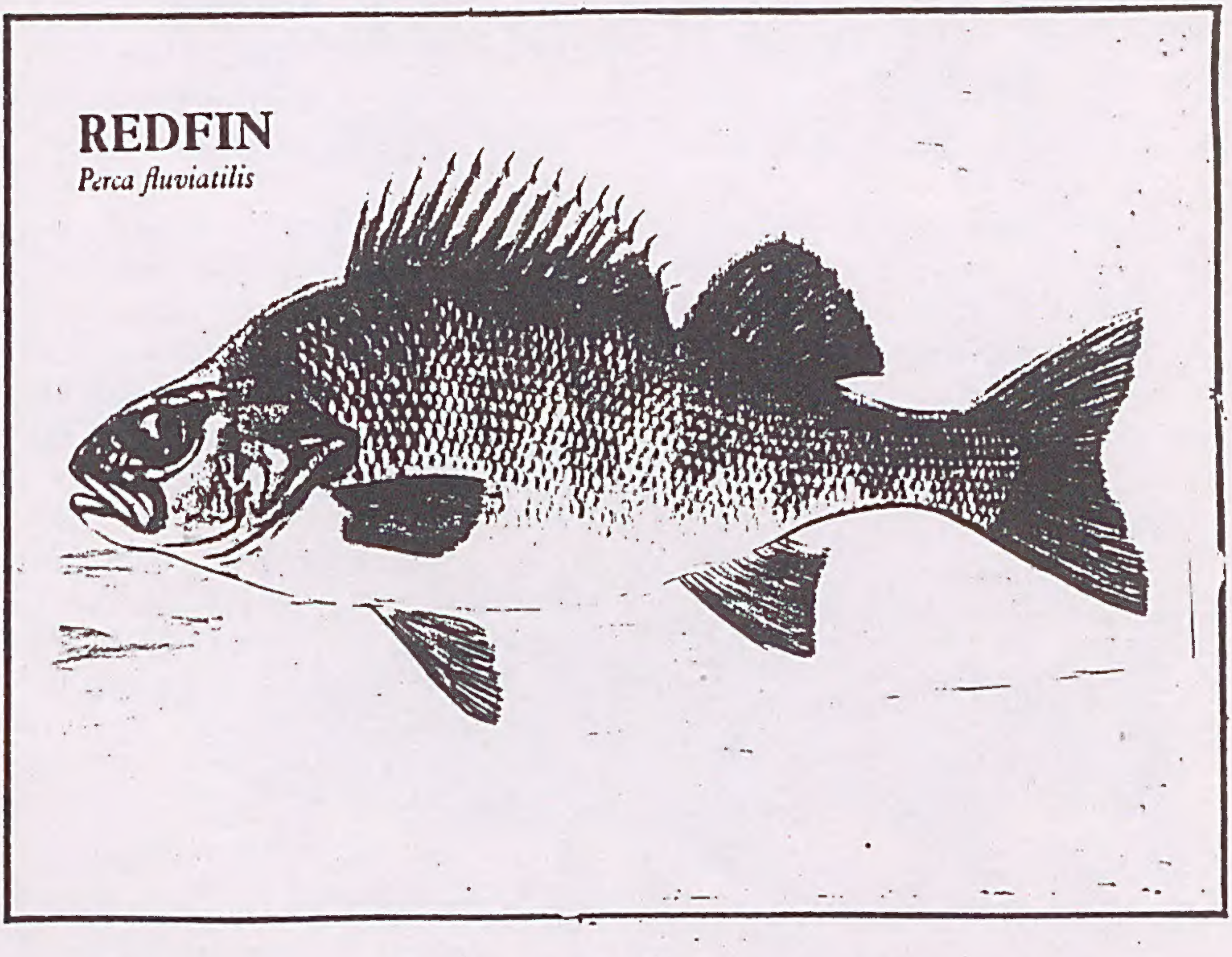
# EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

**Meeting** : Nov. 3rd. Mr. J.Clements: 'Fish of Local Waters.'
Stella Bedggood Memorial Lecture.

**Meeting** : Dec. 1st. Mr.M.Healy: 'Ferns.'

**Excursion** : Nov.4th.-5th. Mt.Cole. Camp-out or day visits. J.Gregurke

**Excursion** : Nov.18th. Clunes area. G.Binns.



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| President; | Dr.F.Harrap | Ph. 053 301651 |
| Vice Pres. | Miss H.Burgess | 312210 |
| Secretary: | Mr.G.Binns | 332282 |
| Treasurer: | Mrs.F.Williamson | 327631 |
| Editor: | Mr.A.Barlow | 413378 |

**Meetings as specified are held at the School of Mines and Industries, Lydiard Street Sth., Art Building, commencing at 7.30 p.m. EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS, cnr. STURT AND ARMSTRONG STS., BALLARAT, at 9.30 a.m. for FULL DAY OUTINGS OR AT 1.30 p.m. for HALF DAY***

## PORCUPINE RIDGE ROAD [illegible]

After a month of gloomy, wet winter weather, [illegible]

[illegible] intersection. A varied and interesting range of plants were seen [illegible]

[illegible] treecreepers, pardalotes, cuckoos and [illegible] robins were often seen or heard during the day.

We later continued on towards Vaughan and the Loddon River Valley area. Relics of the goldmining era were evident here. To our left, the volcanic cone, Mount Franklin, featured prominently in the landscape.

We concluded the day with a stop at Guildford to see the well-known River Red Gum (Eucalyptus camaldulensis), which is registered on the National Trust Register of Significant Trees. This [illegible] we are told [illegible] in excess of [illegible] thousand [illegible]

For your Diary.

November 4 - 5 Club Campout or Day Trips. Middle Creek Camping Ground, Mt. Buangor Forest Park.

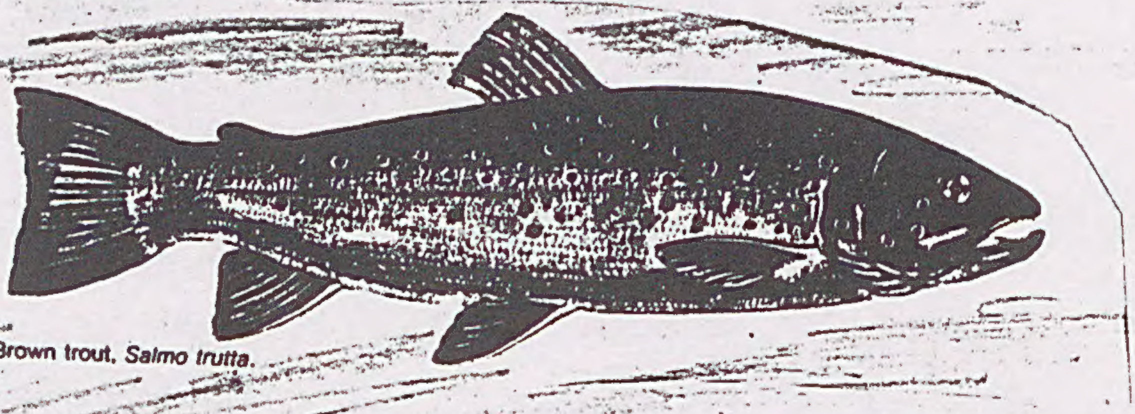
Proceed on Western Highway, 10km. past Beaufort. Turn right to Mt. Buangor Forest Park. After 6km. veer left from Fern Tree Waterfall Rd. to Middle Creek Camping Ground, .05 km. further on.
Saturday 4th. - Meet Beaufort Band Rotunda 11.30Am
Sunday 5th. - Meet Middle Creek Camping Ground at 10.30Am.
Excursions to explore Park.

November 18 (Saturday) Excursion to Clunes area Depart Civic Hall Carpark 9.30pm. For Wetland work, old sneakers an trousers or shorts (and a towel!). Dry forest walks also. Pm. meeting place at Clunes, Queens Park near Bridge.

November 19 (Sunday) Excursion with Geelong F.N.C. at Enfield. Depart Crocker's Corner 9.30Am

ember 21 (Tuesday) Committee Meeting at 1112 St. at 8p.m.

**TROUT**



Brown trout, *Salmo trutta.*

# PORCUPINE RIDGE ROAD EXCURSION. 3-9-89.

After a month of gloomy, wet winter weather, it was pleasant indeed to visit Porcupine Ridge Road bushland on a warm and sunny spring day.

We began the tour at the Daylesford end of the road and continued on through farmland to our first stop at Green's Gully Road intersection. A varied and interesting range of plants were seen here, including Trailing Shaggy-peas, Scented Bush-peas, Grevilleas and many varieties of the Wattle family.

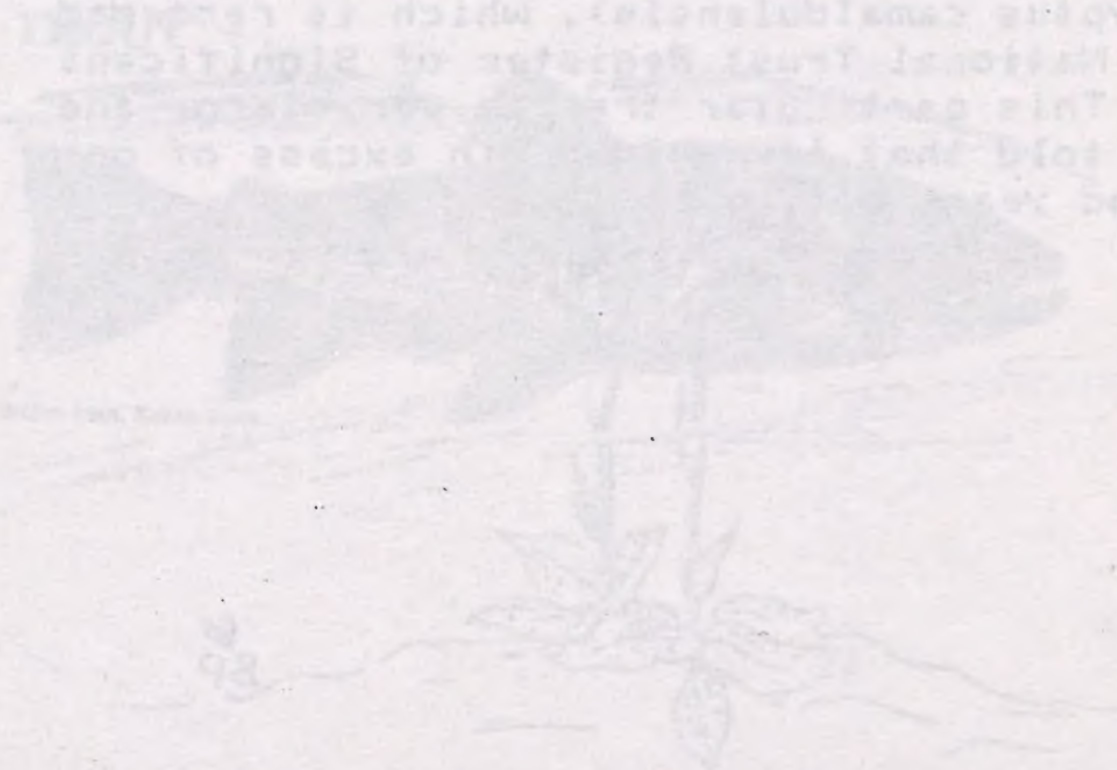
Later stops were made at intervals along the road and changes in the vegetation were noted from one ridge to the next. Fairy Wax, White Marianth, Common Hoveas, Pink Bells, Goldfield's Grevilleas, Boronias and Rosy Heath Myrtles were glorious in a profusion of flowers and perfume. Scarlet robins, treecreepers, pardalotes, cuckoos and yellow robins were often seen or heard during the day.

We later continued on towards Vaughan and the Loddon River Valley area. Relics of the goldmining era were evident here. To our left, the volcanic cone, Mount Franklin, featured prominently in the landscape.

We concluded the day with a stop at Guildford to see the well-known River Red Gum (Eucalyptus camaldulensis), which is recorded on the National Trust Register of Significant Trees. This particular tree is very large and we are told that it could be in excess of one thousand years old

## PORCUPINE RIDGE ROAD EXCURSION 15-9-85

After a month of gloomy, wet winter weather, it was pleasant indeed to visit Porcupine Ridge Road bushland on a warm and sunny spring day.
We began the day at the Daylesford end of the road and continued on through to Hepburn. Our first stop at Green's Bush Road intersection; a varied and interesting range of plants were seen here, including Tall Sword Sedge-grass, Scented Bush-pea, Small Flowered and many varieties of the Wattle family. Later stops were made at intervals along the road and changes in the vegetation were noted from one flora to the next. Tall Marianth, Common Heaths, Pink Bells, Goldfield's Grevillea, Boronias and Silver Banksias were glorious in a profusion of blooms this year. Scarlet robins, treecreepers, pardalotes, cuckoos and yellow robins were often seen or heard during the day.
We later continued on towards Vaughan and the Loddon River Valley area. Relics of the goldmining era were evident here. To our left, the volcanic cone, Mount Franklin, featured prominently in the landscape.
We concluded the day with a stop at Guildford to see the well-known River Red Gum (Eucalyptus camaldulensis), which is registered on the National Trust Register of Significant Trees. This giant river red gum, we are told that is in excess of one thousand years old.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# Field Reports. - October Meeting

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| L. Fink. | In Brisbane Ranges; Dwarf Greenhoods, Blunt Greenhoods, Leopard and other Orchids. |
| H. Burgess. | At Stawell; Swamp Diuris, Purple Sun and Spiral Sun Orchids. |
| M. Rotheram. | At Dereel, vast areas of Nodding Greenhoods and some Pink Finger Orchid. Peregrine Falcons nesting both at Dereel and the Devils Kitchen. |
| C. Dalman. | Impressive display of Native Plants in old Cemetry between Dunolly and Tarnagulla. |
| K. McDonnell. | Watched Magpie Lark nest building, rotating body in nest to smooth clay form with body. Breast stained with mud. Butterflies plentiful - Painted Ladies and Admirals. |
| J. Spicer. | Sturt Desert Pea flowering in N.E. South Australia, with White Form also. |
| Hammond. | 15, 16 September. Collared Sparrow Hawk in Wendouree garden. Killed Starling. |

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## TROUT FARMING

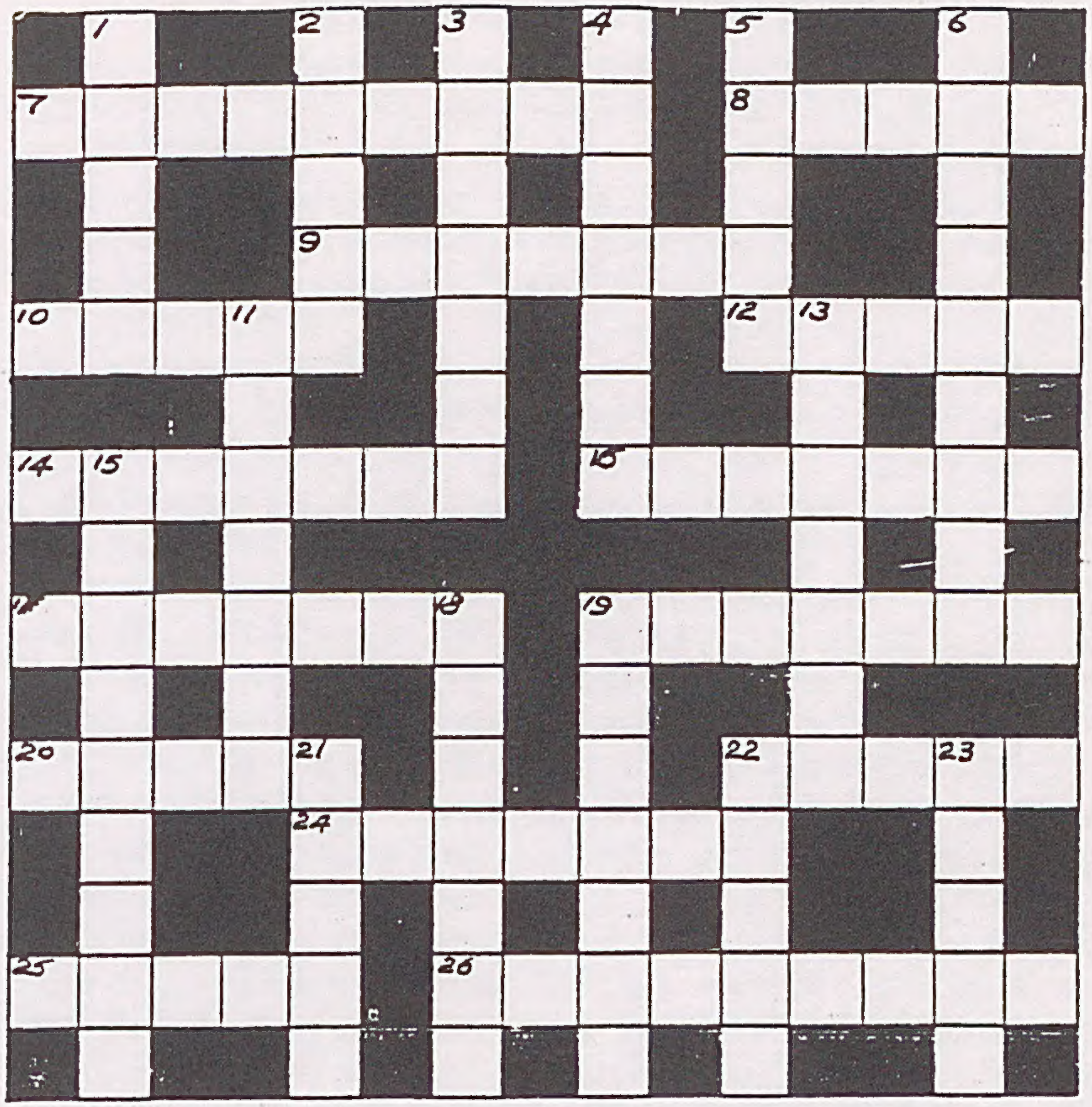
Victoria and Tasmania were the first states in Australia to legalise trout farming. New South Wales did not follow suit until 1969. Opposition to legalisation came from people who feared that trout farms would provide a market for wild trout netted by poachers and passed off as farm-bred trout which, of course, could be sold legally. Knowing that disease is transmitted from fish to fish under conditions of close proximity such as those of trout farms, they also feared that disease could be passed to trout in the wild.

However, after taking expert advice from organisations and individual fishermen, New South Wales State Fisheries agreed to issue licences to trout farms, subject to rigid conditions.

The first farm to begin operations in New South Wales was the Hume Weir trout farm, near Albury. Water is piped to the farm from the Hume Reservoir one kilometre away, providing a good supply of water of constant temperature necessary for the hatching and rearing of trout. After passing through the farm the water is returned to the Murray River where it is available for irrigation downstream.

Modern techniques minimise labour costs at the farm. An electric egg sorter, which can sort up to 5000 eggs per hour, also removes any dead or dying eggs. Stringent precautions are taken to ensure that no disease enters the waters of the farm. Modern water filters and purifiers are used to provide the purest water possible.

Acknowledgements to Encyclopedia of Australian Fishing.



Natural History Crossword No.16 by Tantalus.

Across

7) Largest mammal (4,5) 8 This bird is a headless coward! (5) 9 Sea unicorn (7) 10 Salt water (5) 12 Body organ (5) 14 Mackerel Genus (7) 16 Belgian vegetables? (7) 17 Type of grass (7) 19 Tastes (7) 20 Equus (5) 22 Lavandul spica (5) 24 Female cat (7) 25 Medulla is part of this (5) 26 Referring to maternal link (9)

Down

1 Ground cereal (5) 2 Pigs (5) 3 Marsh or Spotted (7) 4 Rams wwithout a love life!(7) 5 Food for some whales (5) 6 Breed of dog (3,6) 11 Banded Anteaters (6) 13 Sessile eyed crustaceans (7) Relative of Ostrich (9) 18 Cephalopod (7) 19 After high tide the --- ---(3,4) 21 V. large antelope (5) 22 NaCl is one (1,4) 23 Referring to part of the intestine (5)

# BIRDS and WETLANDS. Greg Binns.

Wetlands are a most necessary facet of our natural environment as they hold the key to life of many species.

Unfortuneately, drainage and reclamation of land has been common practice since white settlement, but there is now more realization of the consequences.

in Victoria, we have lost approximately one third of wetlands in some 150 years, what remains constitutes some 3% of our total land surface.

Wetlands are areas which are covered with water for at least part of the year. There are many types, each forming a specialized environment and thus supporting a variety of species. These range from intermittant swamps, water ways, marshes(salt and fresh water), lakes reservoirs, to dams and ditches. Wetlands teem with life, including some 100 bird species, in Victoria, and all other and all other forms of animal and plant life.

The food chains created in these varying wetland habitats are complex and support many different bird species whose existences depend on specialised adaptions for feeding and breeding. Food supplies vary in the different aspects of wetlands eg. the edges, the shallows, deeper water, reedbeds, water plant platforms and overhead. Consequently birds through their differing anatomical features, are able to exist and flourish side byside without unduly competing for food supplies. This is possible through dietry needs, types and length of leg and bills and foraging methods.

The food chain commences with primary consumers of plants and other decaying matter. These are zooplankton, phytoplankton (tiny active plants), and rotifers (which feed on algae). Next are the tubified worms etc, followed by larvae of insects, crustaceans, insects, fish and other small vertibrate. These sources are present in water plants and mud.

An important food source is the huge populations of chironomids, a type of midge with aquatic larval stage whichdevelopin decaying organic compounds.

This provides easily harvested nutrients for ducks in particular.

Flooding of dried out areas causes greater pro productivity of this kind, which is an important factor in the preservation if areas which are inundated periodically, forming seasonal wetlands

Leaf litter of redgums provides an important food source for invertibrates which in their turn provide for waterfowl. These important factors have been discovered through studies in N.S.W. by F. Crowe (C.S.I.R.O.), and S. Briggs and M.

To illustrate the types of wetlands and their significance, Greg showed slides.

A selection of the more interesting waterfowl likely to be found in our region, and characteristics of their breeding methods was also shown.

Greg was thanked in our usual way, it is very good to have one of our own Club Members for Guest Speaker

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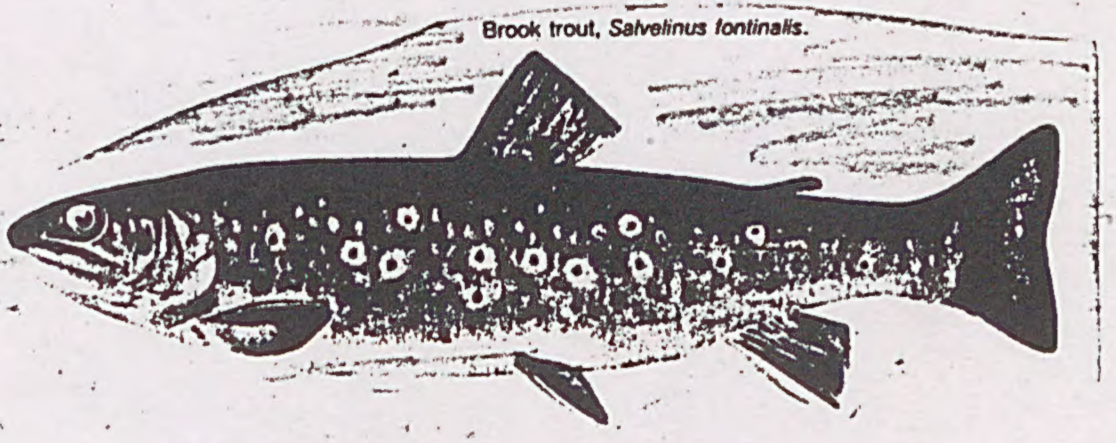
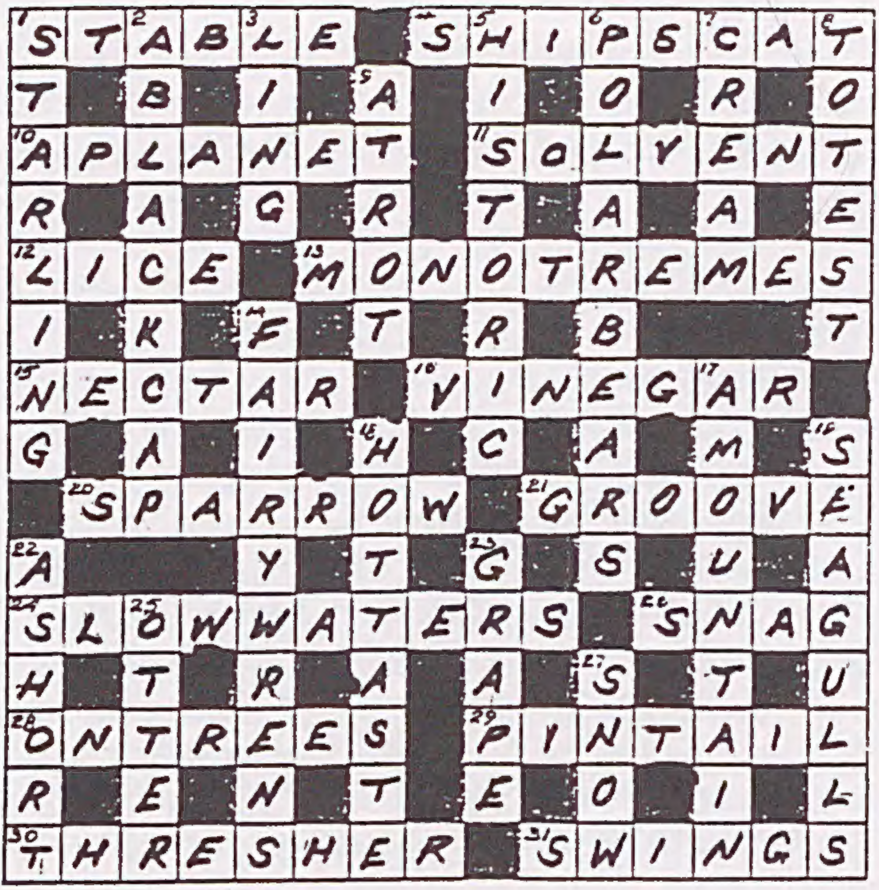
**TROUT**



Brook trout, *Salvelinus fontinalis.*



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Solution to Crossword No.15

ail-end Trivia.

In the Grampians National Park there are over 860 native plant species. here have also been more than 200 bird species recorded.